Novartis Reference: PAT051386-US-NP Mofo Reference: 223002109700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Susan W. BARNETT et al.

Application No.: 09/475,704 Confirmation No.: 6738

Filed: December 30, 1999 Art Unit: 1635

For: POLYNUCLEOTIDES ENCODING

ANTIGENIC HIV TYPE C POLYPEPTIDES, POLYPEPTIDES AND USES THEREOF

Examiner: J. Pitrak

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated September 16, 2009 (Paper No./Mail Date 20090909), for which a response was due on December 16, 2009. Filed herewith is a petition and fee for a three-months extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to March 16, 2010. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this paper.